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EXAMINER
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VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application N .

10/007,370

Applicant(s)

MARANO, HOWARD T.

Examin r

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The following is a Final office action in response to the communications received 02/09/04. Claims 1, 5, 8, and 15-18 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

2. Applicant's amendment to the abstract is sufficient to overcome the specification objections set forth in the previous office action.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with regards to Macrae et al. (U.S. 5,826,237) have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. In the remarks, Applicant argues that (1) Macrae et al. discloses a treatment plan being assigned to a patient or client and does not identify specific entities that perform the tasks, assigning a task to be performed by a worker, or "applying" received "decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to a predetermined event", (2) Macrae et al. is not concerned with task assignment, (3) Macrae et al. does not disclose "an identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity" or assigning such an identifier to at least one of a plurality of displayable task schedules associated with and accessible by a corresponding plurality of different entities, (4) Macrae et al. does not disclose providing one or more work lists, as discussed on application pages 1 and 2, providing an updated task schedule, as discussed on application page 12, and other features found on pages 10 and 11 of the application, (5) Macrae et al. does not teach "processing data associated with a task to identify a task schedule, (6) Macrae et al. does not disclose the limitations of claims 4-7 and 9-14, and

Art Unit: 3623

(7) Macrae et al. does not disclose an event for triggering application of the procedure in allocating the task representative identifier to the identified task schedule.

In response to argument (1) of the Applicant, Examiner first points out that claim 1 recites “initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity”, “receiving decision information entered via the at least one interface menu”, and “applying the received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to a predetermined event”. These limitations do not specifically require identifying specific entities that perform the tasks or assigning a task to be performed by a worker. Macrae et al. teaches a menu interface displayed to a user (i.e. doctor, lab technicians, medical practitioners, etc.) that allows the user to enter information for assigning an identifier to a schedule associated with an entity (i.e. patient), receiving the information, and applying the information in assigning an identifier to the task schedule in response to a predetermined event. The system of Macrae et al. outlines a treatment plan to be acted on by various medical users of the system. After the plan is outlined, a medical user, such as a lab tech, will enter information into the system concerning work performed, such as a strep test. The results about the decision of the lab tech are entered, applied to the outline, and translated into identifiers that cause branching to occur in the outline. See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31.

Art Unit: 3623

In response to argument (2) of the Applicant, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Macrae et al. discusses task assignment to the extent that the claims recite aspects of task assignment through the outlining of a plan and the branching of this plan based on received decision information. Therefore, some tasks are enacted while others are not based on the received decision information. If something more specific is meant, it should be clearly recited in the bodies of the pending claims.

In response to argument (3) of the Applicant, Examiner points out that the limitations of “an identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity” and “assigning such an identifier to at least one of a plurality of displayable task schedules associated with and accessible by a corresponding plurality of different entities” are not recited in the body of the claim, but rather the preamble. These recitations, therefore, are not afforded patentable weight. Examiner points out that a preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

In response to argument (4) of the Applicant, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., work list features, etc.) are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Examiner suggests positive recitation of these features in the claims to make sure they receive proper patentable weight.

Art Unit: 3623

In response to argument (5) of the Applicant, Examiner respectfully disagrees. See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has an outlined procedure to be followed after receiving the decision information. The outline has proposed schedule branches that are only enacted based on the received decision information. For example, if the task is a strep test and the decision information is negative, the decision information is processed with respect to the task in the outline and a task schedule that incorporates this representative identifier of negative is followed in the outline (thus scheduling and following the negative branch and disregarding the positive branch). The decision information would encompass a broader range of information than what is translated into the identifier for scheduling purposes.

In response to argument (6) of the Applicant, Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. For example, on page 11 of the response, Applicant asserts that the prior art does not show "the data associated with a task comprises at least one of (a) a medical procedure identifier for a scheduled procedure, (b) a time and date of performance of a medical procedure, (c) patient medical record information, (d) location of performance of a medical procedure, (e) patient type identifier, (f) patient physical characteristics" without specifically pointing out how this limitation (which is an exact copy of the claim language) patentably distinguishes the claim for Macrae et al. Therefore, Examiner respectfully disagrees and reasserts the rejections set forth below in each instance.

Art Unit: 3623

In response to argument (7) of the Applicant, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Macrae et al. discloses a programmed procedure being follows after the receipt of data, the receipt of the data being a triggering event for the workflow. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information. See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57. If the Applicant intends for the triggering event to be something more specific, Examiner suggests recitation of these features in the claims.

Therefore, the rejections of the previous office action are maintained and reasserted below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Macrae et al. (U.S. 5,826,237).

5. As per claim 1, Macrae et al. teaches a method for assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of displayable task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entries, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:

Art Unit: 3623

- a. initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter decision information that assigns a task character information to a task schedule associated with a user);
  - b. receiving decision information entered via the at least one interface menu (See at least figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, and column 6, lines 45-65, wherein decision information is received via the interface. See also figure 14 and 15 and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57); and
  - c. applying the received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to a predetermined event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein decision information is applied to assign representative identification information to the task schedule associated with the user in response to a predetermined event (i.e. an order is performed and decision information is received from a user and applied to the task schedule)).
6. As per claim 2, Macrae et al discloses a method wherein the step of initiating display of at least one interface menu includes initiating display of menu elements prompting a user to identify at least one of (a) the predetermined event triggering



Art Unit: 3623

application of the decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule, (b) a source of decision information, (c) decision information comprising a procedure for processing data associated with a task to determine a task schedule for listing the task representative identifier (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after received the decision information which is the manner in which the data associated with the task is processed. The information determines the schedule by branching based on the task character information. The task representative identifier is listed in the schedule display).

7. As per claim 3, Macrae et al. discloses a method wherein the decision information comprises a logical procedure for processing data associated with a task to identify a task schedule for incorporating the task representative identifier (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after received the decision information which is the manner in which the data associated with the task is processed. The information determines the schedule by branching based on the task character information).

8. As per claim 4, Macrae et al. teaches a method wherein the data associated with a task comprises at least one of (a) a medical procedure identifier for a scheduled procedure, (b) a time and date of performance of a medical procedure, (c) patient medical record information, (d) location of performance of a medical procedure, (e) patient type identifier, (f) patient physical characteristics (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-

Art Unit: 3623

33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein the data includes a medical procedure identifier, a time and date of performance, patient medical information, etc.).

9. As per claim 5, Macrae et al. discloses a method wherein the entity comprises at least one of (a) a user, (b) a category of users, (c) one or more users currently designated to perform a healthcare worker role, and (d) a medical device or system (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, which includes a user).

10. As per claim 6, Macrae et al. discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein:

a. decision information identifies the predetermined event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein the decision information includes information about the predetermined event); and

b. the predetermined event corresponds to at least one of (a) patient admission, (b) beginning of a medical procedure, (c) end of a medical procedure, (d) a user defined event based on information acquired (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to at least the beginning/end of a medical procedure).

11. As per claim 7, Macrae et al. discloses a method further including applying the received decision information in prioritizing a plurality of task representative identifiers associated with a particular entity in response to occurrence of a triggering event (See

Art Unit: 3623

column 7, lines 45-65, column 9, lines 55-65, column 19, lines 25-45, and column 22, lines 50-67, wherein the decision information is applied and the scheduled tasks are executed in order based on the priority of the orderings of the tasks. Based on trigger events and the task representative identifiers, the tasks can be reordered).

12. As per claim 8, Macrae et al. teaches a method for assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:

a. initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity and accessible by the particular entity (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter and access decision information that assigns a task character information to a task schedule associated with a user), the decision information including:

i. a procedure for processing data associated with a task to identify a task schedule for incorporating the task representative identifier (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after received the decision information which is the manner in which the data associated with the task is processed. The information

Art Unit: 3623

- determines the schedule by branching based on the task character information), and
- ii. an event for triggering application of the procedure in allocating the task representative identifier to the identified task schedule (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after receiving data, the receipt of the data being a triggering event for the workflow. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information);
- b. receiving decision information entered via the at least one interface menu (See at least figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, and column 6, lines 45-65, wherein decision information is received via the interface. See also figure 14 and 15 and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57); and
- c. applying the received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to occurrence of the triggering event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein decision information is applied to assign representative identification information to the task schedule associated with the user in response to a predetermined event (i.e. an order is performed and decision information is received from a user and applied to the task schedule)).
13. As per claim 9, Macrae et al. teaches a method wherein the data associated with a task comprises at least one of (a) a medical procedure identifier for a scheduled

Art Unit: 3623

procedure, (b) a time and date of performance of a medical procedure, (c) patient medical record information, (d) location of performance of a medical procedure, (e) patient type identifier, (f) patient physical characteristics (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein the data includes a medical procedure identifier, a time and date of performance, patient medical information, etc.).

14. As per claim 10, Macrae et al. discloses a method wherein the triggering event corresponds to at least one of (a) patient admission, (b) beginning of a medical procedure, (c) end of a medical procedure, (d) a user defined event based on information acquired (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to at least the beginning/end of a medical procedure).

15. As per claim 11, Macrae et al. discloses a method further including acquiring the data associated with a task (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein data associated with the task is acquired and processed).

16. As per claim 12, Macrae et al. teaches a method wherein:

- a. the procedure conditions allocation of the task to the task schedule associated with the particular entity upon coincidence of a plurality of occurrences (See figure 1 and column 7, lines 43-62, wherein the chances of the occurrences are used in the schedule); and
- b. further including acquiring data to identify the coincidence of the plurality of occurrences (See figure 1 and column 7, lines 43-62).

Art Unit: 3623

17. As per claim 13, Macrae et al. discloses a method wherein:
- a. the triggering event is conditioned upon coincidence of a plurality of occurrences (See figure 1 and column 7, lines 43-62, wherein the chances of the occurrences are used in the schedule. The receipt of the data is a triggering event for the workflow and the branches are conditioned using the chance of occurrence. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information); and
  - b. further including acquiring data to identify the coincidence of the plurality of circumstances (See at least figure 1 and column 7, lines 43-62).
18. As per claim 14, Macrae et al. discloses a method further including applying the received decision information in removing a task representative identifier from the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to occurrence of a triggering event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after receiving data, the receipt of the data being a triggering event for the workflow. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information. The task representative identifiers associated with the not chosen branch are removed from the schedule).
19. As per claim 15, Macrae et al. teaches a method for providing a user interface for assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of displayable task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:
- a. in response to a user command,

Art Unit: 3623

- i. initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter decision information that assigns a task character information to a task schedule associated with a user); and
  - ii. initiating display of an updated task schedule associated with the particular entry, the updated task schedule being generated in response to applying received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to occurrence of a predetermined event (See column 7, lines 45-65, column 9, lines 55-65, column 19, lines 25-45, and column 22, lines 50-67, wherein the decision information is applied and the scheduled tasks are executed. Based on received decision information input by the user, the schedule can be updated. The new generated schedule, containing the task representative identifier, etc. is displayed updated with the merging, backing up, etc.)
- 20. As per claim 16, Macrae et al. discloses a method for providing a user interface supporting assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:
  - a. in response to a user a command,

i. initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity and accessible by the particular entity (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter decision information that assigns a task character information to a task schedule associated with a user), the decision information including,

ii. a procedure for processing data associated with a task to identify a task schedule for incorporating the task representative identifier (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after received the decision information which is the manner in which the data associated with the task is processed. The information determines the schedule by branching based on the task character information), and

iii. an event for triggering application of the procedure in allocating the task representative identifier to the identified task schedule (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after receiving data, the receipt of the data being a triggering



Art Unit: 3623

event for the workflow. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information); and

b. initiating display of an updated task schedule associated with the particular entity, the updated task schedule being generated in response to applying received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to occurrence of the triggering event (See at least column 7, lines 45-65, column 9, lines 55-65, column 19, lines 25-45, and column 22, lines 50-67, wherein the decision information is applied and the scheduled tasks are executed. Based on received decision information input by the user, a triggering event occurs and the schedule can be updated).

21. As per claim 17, Macrae et al. teaches a method for assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:

a. initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for selectively assigning a task representative identifier to at least one of a plurality of task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter decision information that assigns a task character

information to a task schedule associated with a user), the decision information comprising:

i. a procedure for processing data associated with a task to identify a task schedule for incorporating the task representative identifier (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after received the decision information which is the manner in which the data associated with the task is processed. The information determines the schedule by branching based on the task character information), and

ii. an event for triggering application of the procedure in allocating the task representative identifier to the identified task schedule (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein a processor has a programmed procedure it follows after receiving data, the receipt of the data being a triggering event for the workflow. The procedure applies the data to the task schedule and causes branching based on the task character information);

b. receiving decision information entered via the at least one interface menu (See at least figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, and column 6, lines 45-65, wherein decision information is received via the interface. See also figure 14 and 15 and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57); and

c. applying the received decision information in selectively assigning the task representative identifier to the at least one of the plurality of task schedules

Art Unit: 3623

associated with the corresponding plurality of different entities in response to occurrence of the triggering event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein decision information is applied to assign representative identification information to the task schedule associated with the user in response to a predetermined event (i.e. an order is performed and decision information is received from a user and applied to the task schedule)).

22. As per claim 18, Macrae et al. discloses a system for assigning an identifier to at least one of a plurality of displayable task schedules associated with a corresponding plurality of different entities, the identifier representing a task to be performed by an entity, comprising:

- a. a display processor for initiating display of at least one interface menu supporting user entry of decision information for assigning a task representative identifier to a task schedule associated with a particular entity (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31, wherein a display of a menu is initiated, the menu allowing a user to enter decision information that assigns a task character information to a task schedule associated with a user);
- b. an interface processor for receiving decision information entered via the at least one interface menu (See at least figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines

Art Unit: 3623

35-49 and 59-67, and column 6, lines 45-65, wherein decision information is received via the interface. See also figure 14 and 15 and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57); and

- c. a decision processor applying the received decision information in assigning the task representative identifier to the task schedule associated with the particular entity in response to a predetermined event (See at least figures 14, 15, 12, 19, and 31-33, column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 6, lines 45-65, and column 10, lines 28-35 and 44-57, wherein decision information is applied to assign representative identification information to the task schedule associated with the user in response to a predetermined event (i.e. an order is performed and decision information is received from a user and applied to the task schedule)).

23. As per claim 19, Macrae et al. discloses a computer program embodied within a computer readable medium using the method of claim 1 (See figures 1, 4, 12, 19, and 31-33, and column 2, lines 35-49 and 59-67, column 3, lines 5-15, 20-26, and 40-47, column 6, lines 17-22 and 45-67, column 7, lines 15-25, 30-35, and 53-67, column 17, lines 24-30 and 55-67, and column 18, lines 15-31).

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 3623

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

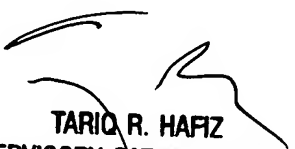
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*bvd*

bvd

April 5, 2004

  
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